THE NEW STATESMAN

Spring Announcements Supplement

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THE SPRING LIST

THIS year's Spring announcements are, if not exceptionally promising, well up to the mark. The reader who glances through the Selected List below will see announced many more books worth reading than he will have time to read. Fortunately, there are millions of readers. On a few of the books mentioned I happen to have an opinion, and even at the risk of giving these perhaps undue prominence, I will begin by saying a word or two about them. Allen and Unwin are publishing the second volume of *Contemporary British Philosophy*. The first volume was a very interesting book, containing a number of essays which were described as "Personal Statements." The object of the editor was to induce contemporary philosophers to give a general description of their conclusions and convictions. To this second volume Mr. G. E. Moore, the author of *Principia Ethica*, is contributing, and his contribution is likely to be of the first interest to those who "try obstinately to think what's what." Under the same section Philosophy and Psychology I see another book of more literary interest, which, on the Continent, has been admiringly read by a wide public; *The Travel Diary of a Philosopher*, by Count Hermann Keyserling (Cape). Vol. III. of Freud's *Collected Papers on Psycho-Analysis* Case Histories (The Hogarth Press) is an important book of its kind. Under the head of Poetry I notice two editions of old poets which look covetable: *Poems of Richard Lovelace*, 2 vols., edited by C. H. Wilkinson (Oxford Press), and *The Poems of John Milton* (vol. I.), edited by Professor Grierson (Chatto and Windus). Mr. Robert Trevelyan is publishing a collection of *Poems and Fables* (Hogarth Press). His work has waited a long time for due recognition; personally, I have little doubt it will outlast much experimental modernity in verse. Messrs. Macmillan are publishing Mr. Yeats' *Early Poems and Stories*, presumably in that pleasant apple-green edition in which his Later Poems appeared. I am glad to see Mr. Bottomley has collected his poems (Constable). With regard to Reprints the Nonesuch Press's *Blake* is sure to be a splendid book. It will be well to subscribe early, as collectors are after Nonesuch books. *The Halliford Edition of Peacock* I have seen. It is a very good edition, but as yet incomplete. Since Dent's edition of Peacock was exhausted, it has been difficult to get a worthy edition of Peacock. Simpkin and Marshall are publishing a cheaper edition of the novels; this is a good sign, a sign that an excellent writer is being more read. Chapman is bringing out a complete Beckford in nine volumes, for which Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell will write a preface. Few people have read more than *Vathek;* Beckford's travels in Spain are among the most delightful of travel books.

Among the natural history books I am aquainted only with one, *British Birds* by Mr. Thorburn—in four volumes (Longmans); this is presumably a cheaper edition of Thorburn's thorough and beautifully illustrated work.

After a pause books about the War are again appearing. For some years there was a glut of them, but few, except specialists or those who sought for records of battles and retreats through which they had lived, troubled to read them. It took the Americans, I believe, fifteen years to become interested in their own Civil War. The explanation of this delay is that a new younger generation is not war-shy. I expect only in future vivid books of personal reminiscences, bringing the realities of war before people, will be read with avidity by the young to whom the War is a matter of hearsay. As yet few such books are appearing. There are two important war-books, however, of a military character in the list: *The History of the Guards Division in the Great War* (Murray, 2 vols.), by Mr. Cuthbert Headlam, with a preface by the Prince of Wales, and Vol. II. of *The History of the Great War* compiled by the historical section of the Committee of Imperial Defence (Macmillan). This is extraordinarily cheap, only 12s. 6d. It is.

Among the announcements of new fiction I have as usual found it difficult to select. There are probably good novels among those whose authors' names say nothing to me. Among the translations I await with eagerness the continuation of Mr. Scott Moncrieff's excellent translation of Proust, *The Guermantes Way* (Chatto and Windus), and Mrs. Constance Garnett's *War and Peace*, which has been long out of print (Heinemann). Herr Thomas Mann is a remarkable novelist, his *Death in Venice and Other Stories* (Secker) ought to be most interesting. From Mr. Belloc's *Mr. Petre* (Arrowsmith) I confidently expect exhilaration and laughter. I have never understood why his stories, like *The Green Over-coat*, have not rushed into edition after edition. I have read aloud or heard read aloud a good many novels, and among modern novels Mr. Belloc's and perhaps *Cashel Byron* and *The Unsocial Socialist* have read aloud best. Secker announces *St. Maur*, by D. H. Lawrence, the Hogarth Press *Mrs. Dalloway*, by Virginia Woolf (readers of *The Voyage Out* will remember Mrs. Dalloway) Heinemann, *The Painted Veil*, by Somerset Maugham. The author of *Futility* has written another story, *The Polyglots* (Cobden-Sanderson), and Mr. David Garnett's *The Sailor's Return, or, The History of William Targett Mariner and his Tulip* rouses my curiosity. I notice with pleasure that two firms, Milford and Dulac, are reprinting *Hajji Baba*. You see good books of the second order are not, after all, forgotten.

Among the plays look out for *Juno and the Paycock*, by Mr. Sean O'Casey (Macmillan). The translation of Pirandello's first batch of plays was not satisfactory, perhaps the second volume (Dent) will be better. Gerhart Hauptmann is a dramatist who has not had due recognition in this country; Secker, I am glad to see, is publishing a translation of three of his plays. *Dr. Knock* (Benn), by M. Jules Romains, is an amusing comedy; it has been translated by Mr. Granville-Barker. By far the most promising stage book of the Spring Season is Sir Johnstone Forbes-Robertson's *A Player under Three Reigns* (Unwin).

The class *Belles Lettres and Criticism* contains a good many interesting items. Messrs. Herford and Simpson's *Ben Jonson* (vols. I. and II., Oxford) will be an important book. *The Cruise of the Nona* (H. Belloc: Constable) is a collection of reflections on life and history written in the setting of a cruise. *Words and Idioms*, by Mr. Logan Pearsall Smith, is a collection of scholarly essays, most of which have appeared either in the pages of this paper or as contributions to the Society of Pure English. *The Nightingale* (Longmans), by Miss Majorie Strachey, is a life of Chopin written as a novel. I happen to have read it, and I found it vivid, excellently documented and moving. Mr. Osbert Sitwell is expert at capturing "the spirit of place"; judging from those sketches which have appeared in magazines his *Discursions on Travel and Art* (Grant Richards) will be a charming book. Perhaps the most curious item of all is the one at the head of the fiction list, *The Tale of Genji*, by the Lady Murasaki (Allen and Unwin), which has been translated by Mr. Arthur Waley; this is a Japanese novel which might be contemporary with the works of Proust or Henry James, and was actually written about the time William Rufus was planting the New Forest. *From a Pitman's Notebook* by Roger Dataller (Cape), at once rivetted me; parts of it have appeared in *The Adelphi*. It is written in vigorous literary English, and not only the tone of it, but the substance is interesting. D. M.

Selected List of Spring Books

ART

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Utamaro. Yone Noguchi. Mathews. 21s.
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